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WITH ABOUT 200 'OLD FRIENDS'

HST Marks 77th Year Today

KANSAS CITY, Mo., 8 (UPI) — Former President Harry S. Truman celebrates his 77th birthday today with the help of 200 "old friends," including President Kennedy and comedian Jack Benny.

The President will extend his birthday greetings to the spry ex-President via a special telephone hookup direct from the White House to the grand ballroom of the Hotel Muehlebach at 1:25 p. m. CST.

There was no official announcement from the group arranging the party, but Mr. Truman and Mr. Benny were expected to stage a brief "concert" for the 200 persons attending the hotel party—Mr. Truman playing the piano and Mr. Benny his famed violin.

Mr. Truman and Mr. Benny are close friends.

OTHERS

Others invited to the party were several Democrats who served in the Truman Cabinet during his White House tenure. They are John Snyder, former Secretary of the Treasury; Jesse Donaldson, former Postmaster General; Dan Kimball, former Secretary of the Navy, and James P. McGranery, former Attorney General.

Others include Jake Arvey, Chicago Democratic leader, and Leslie Biffle, Secretary of the Senate when Mr. Truman was President.

The group will be swelled



Mr. Truman

by Mr. Truman's World War I comrades of Battery D of the 129th Field Artillery and his relatives living in the Kansas City area.

Govs. John M. Dalton of Missouri and Frank T. Morrison of Nebraska also have been invited.

Tonight, Mr. Truman will be the guest of honor and speak at the Golden Anniversary dinner of a Masonic Lodge he helped found in nearby Grandview, Mo.

'APPALLED'

In an exclusive pre-birthday interview Mr. Truman said he is "appalled" at the lack of knowledge on the part of the nation's young people about American government and history.

He said he plans to devote

the balance of his years to talking with youth and "instilling in young people the importance of studying history and taking an active part in politics."

As for any further government service, Mr. Truman says he is thru with all that. "But I'll never turn down the chance to campaign for good Democrats who want to get elected," he added.

Bourguiba Is on Mend

Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba is improving in his bout with laryngitis and bronchitis, but is expected to remain in bed for another day on the advice of his physician, Tunisian Doctor Amor Chadla.

Mr. Bourguiba, who has remained in bed in the official guest residence, Blair House, since Saturday morning, still hopes to fulfill a scheduled visit to New York Wednesday. (UPI)

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